

REMARKS

Claims 9-26 are pending in the application. The drawings were objected to based on a finding in relation to labeling of boxes. All of the claims were rejected under Section 102 based on the Azieres patent (U.S. 6,646,564). Claims 9 and 25 are amended. Support for the amendment to the claims is found at paragraph [0020] at page 6 of the detailed description. No new claims have been added and no claims have been cancelled. Reconsideration of the objection and rejection is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Response to the Objection to the Drawing

The objection to all of the figures 1-4 is based on a determination that boxes in the figures are not labeled. Both sheets of drawings are replaced with new sheets provided herewith. No new matter is introduced. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Response to the Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102

Each of the independent claims 9 and 25 has been amended to more clearly distinguish patentable subject matter in the claims over the Azieres patent. It is noted that one basis for the rejection is that the Azieres reference discloses that a "controller 106 can be programmed to ... transmit email messages to ... users to so inform these users of relevant operating or alarm conditions ..." See Col. 4, lines 49-57. However, this has not been a feature recited in claims 9 and 25. To facilitate allowance of the claims, amendments have been amended to more clearly distinguish over the Azieres reference. Claim 9 requires:

"transmitting the recorded condition values to the central maintenance management system using e-mail"

and claim 25 requires:

"transmitting by a transmission mechanism using email the recorded condition values to a central maintenance management system for automated evaluation"

In an example embodiment, the above-recited features are presented in relation to a maintenance client 60 and a maintenance server 62 wherein the server 62 performs functions of a maintenance management system. Communication between the client 60 and the server 62 takes place via the Internet or a LAN. See paragraph [0022] at page 7 of the detailed description.

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Atty. Doc. No. 2002P03973WOUS

Applicant claims those embodiments wherein the communication is *by a transmission mechanism using email*. The Azieres reference does not at all teach or suggest the claimed transmitting, e.g., between a client system and a server using email.

Each of the dependent claims further defines a combination which is not taught or suggested in the art of record. It is noted, for example, that a feature presented in claim 11, wherein the central management system includes a mechanism for monitoring or documenting a maintenance order, is not found in the Azieres reference. In contrast, the Azieres reference only states at Column 12, lines 32-35, that "service personnel can activate the camera 110 through the personal computer 112 ..." Further, applicants' claimed "central maintenance management system" cannot be read on the personal computer 112.

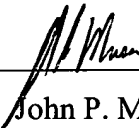
Conclusion

For all of the reasons presented, applicants believe this application to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including the fees specified in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 (c), 1.17(a)(1) and 1.20(d), or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 10/19/06

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Enclosure of two drawing sheets